Legislation against tobacco

695. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering all possible options to make legislation against using tobacco in any form in the country;

(b) if so, the specific time-frame by which anti-tobacco Bill would be introduced in Parliament;

(c) whether the tobacco related diseases which are increasing in the country day by day, have shattered health and economy of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of other steps Government propose to initiate to check its use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Based on community based surveys and medical data available, it is estimated that tobacco is responsible for 800,000 deaths annually in the country and is also responsible for causing diseases like Cancer, Cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases.

While legislation to discourage consumption of tobacco is under consideration of the Government, no specific time frame for its introduction can be given at this juncture.

Complaints of Radiographers in Delhi Hospitals

696. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the complaints of Radiographers in Government, Municipal Corporation hospitals in Delhi, which are flouting safety rules;

(b) the work load per Radiographer in AIIMS, Safdarjung, Railways, per month; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a Radiographer can be exposed only 400 dose of X-Ray per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) In all the three Central Government Hospitals namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals, Radiographers are provided with all types of gargets including TLD badges for protection from radiation. The Radiographers are also subjected to strict safety rules as per monitoring done by Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) periodically.

The Government of NCT of Delhi and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi have also informed that no safety rules have been flouted in hospitals under their control.

(b) The work load per Radiographer in AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and Railways per month is as under:—

Safdarjung Hospital—1200—1500 (Approx.)

Railway —490 (Approx.)

In so far as AIIMS is concerned, they have intimated that the workload per Radiographer is variable on the type of X-Ray investigations.

(c) It is not a fact that the Radiographer can be exposed only to 400 doses of X-Ray per month. The maximum permissible dose is 30 mSv for a year and cumulative maximum permissible dose is 100 mSv over five years prescribed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a Radiation worker. All the radiographers are monitored with the help of TLD badges provided by the BARC, which is the authority for centrally monitoring further radioation doses.